

## Irrigating From An Underground River The Great Good Fortune Of Demingites

By  
R. Bedichek

ONE of the most curious natural phenomena in the Southwest is the Mimbres river, which issues from the mountains about 20 miles north of Deming, N. M., only to sink into the sands. It does not reappear within the borders of the United States, but rises again a few miles south of the Mexican line and there forms a tremendous lake.

A few years ago an enterprising land man got hold of a talented, but drunken, landscape painter, and the two of them saw a vision of steamboats puffing up the Mimbres river and unloading costly bales of merchandise at elaborate wharves in Deming. The artist made the picture and the land man had it reproduced. Of course, it was a great joke in the community, but it illustrates, in a way, the soaring fancy and buoyant optimism of some of our western land men who dream dreams and see visions.

Deep Canal Would Solve It.  
Now it is a canal could be cut down the

### International Specialists



**WE TREAT ALL**  
CHRONIC NERVOUS, BLOOD, SKIN, KIDNEY, BLADDER, RECTAL AND PRIVATE DISEASES AND WEAKNESSES AND THEIR COMPLICATIONS.

Experience the result of many years' successful practice has enabled us to devise, develop and perfect methods of treating the above class of troubles that are superior to any other.

Our offices are the best equipped and our laboratory is the best stocked of any in the Southwest.

### FREE BOOKS

Describing our treatment, discussing the causes, changes, prevention and treatment of the above disorders, together with our perfected symptom blank will be sent to any address in a plain sealed envelope FREE of charge.

IF UNABLE TO CALL, WRITE FOR INFORMATION.

Consultation, examination and advice free.

Hours, 9 a. m. to 7 p. m.; Wednesdays and Saturdays to 8 p. m. Sundays 9 to 1 o'clock.

### International Specialists

Rooms 9-12 C. & L. Bldg., El Paso, Tex.

Mimbres valley from Deming to the line of Old Mexico, from 20 to 60 feet deep, the vision of the land man and his illustrious accomplice would not be impossible for realization; for there is really an underground river at Deming, and in the wells of this region, the direction and velocity of this river can be accurately determined.

However, the canals are unnecessary in order to have the use of water from this river for irrigation. Within the last year or so, big wells have been sunk which, equipped with up-to-date machinery, deliver all the way from one thousand to two and even three thousand gallons of water per minute. There are five big wells driving outflows in the vicinity of Deming now busily engaged in tapping this underground flow of water.

### River Covered Over

Geologists say that the Mimbres Valley has been built up by the erosion of mountains surrounding it, and that at one time in the history of the world there was nothing here but a gorge in mountains miles high, which gorge was the channel of a gigantic river over 20 miles wide in places. Then there was a time, say the scientists, when sufficient soil was built up to support vegetation comparable in its luxuriance to that of the Amazon river bottom. That there was abundant and varied animal life here at one time is proved by the fact that many bones are encountered at depths varying from 15 to 40 feet. In many places, it is impossible to dig 10 or 20 feet deep without uncovering human bones, and authorities on the subject say that it is quite likely that these are the remains of a prehistoric race.

### Overflows of Silt

The overflows of this great river during thousands of years kept depositing their silt, this covering the river deeper and deeper, until none of the moisture of its hidden waters reached the surface. The country then became a desert, and how many eons passed by while all this region above the covered river remained a desert, it is impossible for

**Farmers should eat more oatmeal.**

Although the farmer of today is able to buy almost anything he wants to wear or to eat he isn't paying enough attention to food values when it comes to his own table.

If he has been watching the extensive researches and experiments on the question of the best human food for muscle and brain he will heed the advice from all sides to "eat more Quaker Scotch Oats."

Quaker Scotch Oats is mentioned because it is recognized in this country and Europe as the best of all meals. Feeding farm hands on Quaker Scotch Oats means getting more work out of them than if you feed them on anything else.

For hot climates it is packed in hermetically sealed tins; and in regular packages.

one who has had no training in geology to imagine. Of course, during years of excessive rainfall, the naturally rich soil supported abundant grass. Such was the condition when the first cattle-men drove their herds into the Mimbres valley 30 or 40 years ago.

Old timers still talk of the time when this vast stretch of valley between Cooks Peak and the Florida Mountains was a waving sea of grass. In that time this valley was the best breeding country in the world. From 90 to 95 percent of an ordinary bunch of cows would bear calves in a season—a record unequalled, we believe, by any other cattle raising section in the world.

### The Droughts

But droughts came, and then this country was not exactly the "cattleman's paradise." It was nearer what Sheridan said Texas was. The ranges became overstocked, and dividends in the cattle business were represented by poverty hides and bones for the bone mills.

Then people commenced to wander in who were hungry for the land. It mattered little that it was desert land—what they wanted was land, and they got it. The first settlers, that is, the first "nesters" know nothing of the possibilities of irrigation, and they soon starved out. Another crop of "nesters" came, and they started out, and so on. Ruins of old adobe huts and shacks attest this fact, as well as the memories of the old timers.

### Pumping the Water

In the meantime, however, the American genius for invention had encountered conditions in other portions of the west where cheap water meant salvation—not only salvation, it meant millions of money. Inventors set about devising some means of raising great quantities of water economically. Powerful pumps were the result, and gasoline and crude oil engines. Then it became possible to transmit a high voltage of electricity to almost any distance without appreciable loss. With this invention the central power plant became feasible, that is, a plant where electricity is generated and from which by means of transmission lines the power (which, it is called) is conveyed to motors which run the pumps, so that all the farmer has to do is to touch the button, as of old the prophet smote the rock, and abundant water gushes forth.

All of these means of lifting water are now in use in the Mimbres valley, and lo! this vast river valley which it took nature countless ages to make into a desert is now being made into gardens and fields and orchards. The reconquering of this desert valley is a signal triumph of man's genius for making nature subservient to his will.

### Men of Means

The men who are now coming into the Mimbres valley are not hungry for free land. They are men of means, judgment and imagination, and most of them, thoroughly acquainted with the science of irrigation, they are building fine country homes, they are pumping water at the rate of 2000 gallons per minute, they are setting out orchards and vineyards, and seeding their broad fields with alfalfa.

To take a single instance of what a man with a little money and lots of brains and experience can do, we point to the farm of John Hund, two miles

from Deming. Mr. Hund is a scientific farmer. He was one of the pioneers of Ventura county, California, and was one of the men who helped to turn that wind swept, desert waste into one of the garden spots of the Golden state. He is a veteran irrigator, and was for years the manager of one of the finest fruit ranches in California, but has the just the pioneer still in his veins. He came into the Mimbres valley a little over a year ago and commenced work on a hundred acres of wretched looking sage brush and mesquite. He got nothing planted before July 1 last year. Nevertheless he took perennials on Indian corn, milo maize, sorghum cane, and a number of other crops. He got a number of acres of alfalfa successfully seeded so that it is now nearly ready to cut; he netted over \$40 per acre on his bean crop. He will have 1000 acres in cultivation and under irrigation this year. He has box elder trees set out along the entire north and west lines of his farm. This farm looks like an oasis in a desert and it is.

### Some Examples

But there are other cases in this vicinity. Shull brothers have 180 acres in cultivation. They raised the prize Irish potatoes of the southwest last year. They are putting their land this year into beans, potatoes and onion.

Col. E. E. Burdick, one of the wealthiest cattlemen of Luna county, is one of the oldest of the old-timers, is developing a farm about four miles east of Deming. He has a well which pumps a thousand gallons of water per minute, and has one hundred and sixty acres ready to receive the water. Except for a thirty three-acre patch of onions, he is putting his entire farm into feed stuffs.

And there are others and others whom space does not permit us to mention.

### Water at Touch of Button

Sam Schelling has twenty acres in alfalfa just at the edge of town. He has installed an electric motor. The power is furnished by the Deming Ice and Electric company. He has merely to touch a button in order to get five hundred gallons of water per minute. His entire plant, well, pump, motor and all can be duplicated for five hundred dollars.

The Chinese farmers, who have been truck-gardening one mile from Deming for the last ten years and clearing up from two to three hundred dollars per acre per year on their land, have lately installed an electric motor, and find the problem of irrigation much simplified thereby. J. M. Williams, whose farm lies five miles southwest of Deming, is having a twenty-five horsepower electric motor installed; and Mr. Miller, who owns a farm adjoining that of Mr. Williams, has ordered a thirty horsepower motor.

The Deming Ice and Electric company are pushing their transmission lines into the country as fast as practicable, and it is just a matter of a little time when there will be a network of power lines all over the irrigable lands of the Mimbres valley, and water will be gushing from a thousand wells to the musical hum of this new electrical appliance.

### Transportation Facilities

Deming's splendid transportation fa-

## F N = T A Z



### Chronicles of the Grouch Family

5. This is her brother. By cruel fates  
He was always around to spoil tete-a-tetes.

Looks like the limit of trouble.  
But don't miss the next scene!

ilities and its proximity to the immense fields of territory under the cheapest production of electrical power. Cheap electrical power means cheap water for the irrigator, and cheap water means tremendous profits. Cheap power also means cheap telephones, cheap electrical lights, cheap labor saving devices for farms all over the valley. Every labor saving device on the farm means greater luxury for the farmer, means greater profits, means advance in land values.

It is a conceded fact among irrigators that water may be pumped profitably from "any distance within mechanical possibilities" onto land that will produce merchantable fruit in average quantities, to say nothing of land that will produce fancy fruit in abundant quantities. The El Paso fair last fall the Mimbres valley took the following premiums on fruit in competition with fruit from New Mexico, northern Old Mexico and western Texas: Ten varieties of apples, 2nd; best plate of winter apples, 2nd; best display of fruit, 1st; peaches and pears, 1st; Arkansas Blacks, 1st; largest peach, 1st; best plate of pears, 2nd; Black Twigs, 1st; Rambows, 2nd; Missouri Pippins, 1st.

**Price Winners.**  
Out of thirty-one entries of fruits and vegetables, twenty-one prizes were captured. This is an indication of the quality of fruit grown in the Mimbres valley. Now, if water can be pumped profitably "any distance within mechanical possibilities" to grow an ordinary crop of fruit, what can be said as to the profits of pumping it from exhaustless shallow wells to produce abundant yields of the choicest fruit grown anywhere in the United States?

Much has been said so far of the quantity of water in the Mimbres valley, but nothing of the quality. Deming water analyzes 99.98 percent pure, the purest water in the United States, with the exception of a few springs in two small counties in the state of New York. Moreover, this underground river is of a temperature exactly suited to irrigation.

**Little Difficulty.**  
None of the difficulty is encountered in this regard which farmers in many mountain districts of the western states have to contend with, where the water from melting snows is so cold as to retard the growth of, and often permanently injure, the vegetation. Nor is it so warm as is sometimes the case in artesian belts. The water of this underground river is about the temperature of the air at night during the growing season, which is just the temperature best suited for the purpose of irrigation.

There is still another unusual advantage connected with the irrigable lands of the Mimbres valley. Beneath the rich surface soil, at a depth of from two to three or four feet, is a subsoil which holds the water like a jug. This condition explains a fact which it is so hard for irrigators elsewhere to understand, viz., that a given amount of water will irrigate thoroughly about twice as much land in the Mimbres valley as it irrigates in regions where a porous subsoil allows the water to leak away before the growing crops have thoroughly utilized it.

**Natural Advantages.**  
The natural conditions and advantages above outlined would attract investors into a region where there were no railroads within 50 miles of it. The farmer would go there and depend upon the railroad coming in time. But it happens that Deming has already more railroads than any other town in the territory. On the map, the little circle which represents Deming looks like the hub of a wheel, and the lines representing railroads look like five spokes, straight, and equidistant apart. Another road has a permanent survey through Deming, and when this road is built, there will be two more spokes in the wheel. These railroads penetrate vast mining and cattle-raising districts, thus affording the Mimbres valley farmer an ideal market for his produce.

**Tempting Offers.**  
In many regions offering tempting

opportunities to the investor, the climatic conditions are such as to try the hardest constitutions; but the climate of this portion of New Mexico is such as to invite the normal man and is a positive inducement to the person who is in ill health. There are on an average 300 cloudless days in the year in this part of the southwest. The air is dry and pure, the elevation above sea level is 4200 feet, the winters are mild, the night cool and the mornings bracing throughout the year. The United States government, after having its experts make an exhaustive study of the situation, finally located its sanitarium for army men afflicted with tuberculosis in this region. Fort Bayard is only about 35 miles from Deming.

The Mimbres valley is practically unadvised. It was just recently that

a chamber of commerce was organized at Deming. No systematic effort has ever been made to place the claims of this favored region before investors who were on the lookout for a new location.

While land under the various government irrigation projects has been given widest publicity, and the wonders wrought by irrigation in many regions have been heralded to the world through popular magazines and descriptive booklets blazing in color and adorned with artistic photography, the Mimbres valley has slept in the consciousness of its unrivaled natural advantages. It has been this feeling of security in the possession of the best that has been responsible for the long silence here, while other sections of the west have been beating their tom-toms. But no pains are being taken at the present writing to conceal longer the fact that the Mimbres valley is on the earth.

Bring strong, healthy children  
Into the world.

**Is the stork coming?**  
Will you have to undergo the ordeal of childbirth? At no other time in a woman's life is the strain on vitality so great, and the strength of your child depends on your own health during this period.

**Pabst Extract**  
The Best Tonic

combining the nutritive and tonic properties of rich barley malt and choicest hops, contains the very elements most needed to prepare for this trying time. Besides, its consistent use keeps the mother strong and robust during lactation and furnishes abundant nourishment for the growing child, inducing restful sleep and insuring vigorous health to both.

The United States Government specifically classifies Pabst Extract as an article of medicine—not an alcoholic beverage.

Order a dozen bottles from your local druggist. Insist upon it being Pabst.

## Sunset Specials

**WASHINGTON, D. C., and return**.....\$67.10  
On sale May 14, 15, 16 and 17, limit June 1st with extension to June 15th.

**ST. LOUIS, MO., and return**.....\$49.65  
On sale May 17, 18 and 19, limit May 28th.

**ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., and return**.....\$74.10  
On sale May 15, 16 and 17, limit June 15th.

**AUGUSTA, GA., and return**.....\$58.65  
On sale April 30 and May 1, limit May 29th.

**ATLANTA, GA., and return**.....\$56.20  
On sale May 22, 23 and 24, limit June 1st.

See Us for Cheap Summer Rates, and Good Service

**W. C. McCORMICK, G.A. J. E. MONROE, C.T.A.**  
CITY TICKET OFFICE—ST. REGIS HOTEL

**ANGELUS CLEANING & WORKS** BLOCK BROS., Props.  
Phone Bell 1610. Crawford Theater Bldg., Opp. Plaza  
That last year's spring suit can be made to look like new. Prices reasonable. Gloves cleaned second to none. Satisfactory guarantee.

## Low Round Trip Summer Rates

To All Eastern Points--Effective June 1st  
Via The Right Route East

Now, that the Vacation Season is at hand, you are probably planning pleasures in eastern cities and summer resorts. Whether you are going back home to spend the summer, or intend to combine business and pleasure, don't overlook the most important feature of your trip--the route you are to travel.

### PLAN YOUR TRIP

Via the E. P. S. W. in Connection with  
the Rock Island System

And Save 14 Hours to Chicago; 14 Hours to Kansas City; 7 Hours to St. Louis

Travelers coming from the Southwest make close connection at El Paso. Bear in mind that the E. P. & S. W. offers the finest train service known to modern times

We Will Gladly Assist You in Planning Your Summer Trip

Three Daily Trains East  
Morning--Noon--Night

Ask--  
**RICHARD WARREN**  
General Agent

City Ticket Office  
**SHELDON HOTEL**

Ask--  
**D. MCGREGOR**  
City Pass. Agent